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Thursday, August 21, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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'It's what he would have wanted': Grandparents donate deceased grandson's medical equipment

FYFFE - Brandon Godwin, 22, died recently of muscular dystrophy, but his memory lives on.

To honor Brandon, his grandparents decided to donate an estimated \$15,000 worth of his medical equipment to a charitable organization rather than selling it.

"Even though we could have used the money, we wanted to give it to a family and help someone else," said Elzie Green, Brandon's grandmother. "It is what he would have wanted us to do."

For help in identifying a worthy organization, Green contacted the Gadsden office of Children's Rehabilitation Service (CRS), where Godwin received services for much of his life. CRS staff recommended that the Greens donate the equipment to the 3-R Project in Anniston, a state reutilization program that lends assistive technology at no cost to people with disabilities.

Earlier this summer, CRS staff loaded two trucks to donate Godwin's semi-electric hospital bed, a manual patient lift, a hydraulic patient lift, two power wheelchairs, an adult manual wheelchair, a roll-in shower chair, a therapeutic air mattress, two over-the-bed tables, and a suction pump.

The recipients have included a man with an advanced case of Lou Gehrig's disease and two individuals with spinal cord injuries. Some of the equipment is still available.

Godwin received the equipment with the assistance of Gadsden CRS , which either helped pay for it or assisted the family by locating other resources to purchase or donate it. In addition to helping with his medical equipment needs, Gadsden CRS also served the young man through its Orthopedic Clinic.

Godwin was a 2004 graduate of Fyffe High School in Dekalb County. His grandmother said she is convinced that his strong faith helped him to survive far beyond his life expectancy of 13 years old. He died March 2, 2008.

Children's Rehabilitation Service is a division of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.